Import of Coal

3525. SHRI : GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any import of coal, recently;

(b) if so, what are the quantity of coal imported in the year 1996 and 1997; and

(c) who are the consumers of this imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of imports of coking and non-coking coal during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under:

Year	Quantity
1995-96	12.51 million tonnes
1996-97 (Prov.)	14.41 million tonnes

(c) Steel, power, cement, chemical industries and others are the main consumers of the imported coal in the country

Plant package order by NLC

3526. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neyveli Lignite Corporation had placed the main plant package order for the 2 × 210 MW Neyveli Thermal Power Station, on the Italian M N C Ansaldo and not the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact the BHEL chairman met the Chairman of Neyveli Lignite Corporation and informed him about the special feature and advantages of BHEL's proposal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The special technical features of the offer as perceived by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) as well as BHEL's knowledge of operating conditions prevailing at Neyveli were explained by BHEL offcials to the officials of Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

Coal Reserves in the Country

3527. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) for how long period the coal reserves of the country are expected to last with large scale of mining of coal in the country;

(b) whether Government have consider to exploit more and more other sources of energy like hydro-power and preserve coal for longer period in future; and

(c) what measures have been taken in this regard or are proposed to be taken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Keeping in view the present and projected future off take of coal by various sectors, the indigenous coal reserves are likely to last over 100 years.

(b) and (c) The potential alternate soruces of energy in the country are hydel, nuclear and non-conventional energy like solar and wind energy etc. Thrusts have been given to exploit these energy sources to their optimum levels.

कोयला खानों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं का अभाव

3528. श्री जनार्दन यादव: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कोयले का उत्पादन इसकी मांग से कम है क्योंकि खानों में आधारभूत सुविधाओं की कमी है और

(ख) कोयले का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के मद्देनजर सरकार के पास आधारभूत सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध करवाने की कौन-कौन सी योजनाएं हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) चूंकि कोकक्र कोयले की मांग उत्पादन से अधिक होती है, अत: देश में कोयले की मांग को पूरा करने हेतु अकोकक्र कोयले का पर्याप्त उत्पादन किया जाता है।

(ख) कोयला संरक्षण एवं विकास अधिनियम के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत, कोकक्र कोयले पर प्रति टन 4.25 रु० और अकोकक्र कोयले पर प्रति टन 3.50 रु० उत्पादकर लगाया जाता है। इस उत्पाद कर से प्राप्त राशि का एक भाग उन स्थानों पर आधारभूत संरचना संबंधी सुविधाओं के लिए उपलब्ध करवाया जाता है जहां इसकी आवश्यकता है।

Increase in Demand and Supply Gap in Coal

3529. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the comparative increase in the demand and suppiy gap in coal at the end of the Eighth Plan period and whether it is anticipated to be widened by the end of the Ninth Plan period vis-a-vis the decline in the coal out put during the two plan periods;

(b) whether considering the existing coal mining scenario Government have considered the question of attracting serious investment for commercial coal mining projects in the country by private sector, both by domestic and foreign; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The demand and supply of coal at the end of the Eight Five Year Plan and as projected by the Planning Commission for the terminal year of the Ninth Five Year Plan are as given below:—

(In million tonnes)

Terminal Year	Demand	Supply	Gap
Eighth Five Year Plan (1996-97)	325.00	286.35	38.65
Ninth Five year Plan (2001-02)	412.20	370.60	41.60

Actually, the demand materialisation was only 286.35 millon tonnes in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Coal mining by private sector is not permitted as per the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act 1973, except in cases of captive mining for end uses such as power generation, steel, sponge iron, and cement production. Captive mining permission have been given to 21 parties for 17 blocks.

Caving in of Kuju Coal Mines

3530. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some miners were burried alive and some were critically injured when a layer of number 36 Kuju coalmines of the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) caved on 9th June, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some inquiry has been instituted in the matter;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to prevent such incidents in fututre;

(e) what compensation has been paid to the kith and kin of the dead; and

(f) the punishment given to the negligents in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Coal India Limited (CIL) that in the third shift of 8th June, 1998, at about 1.15 A.M. (of 9.6.98) at 36th level junction of Kuju coal mine of Central